

IN THE CLAIMS

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1. (Amended) A method for grouping a series of images stored in a digital camera, the digital camera including a view finder for displaying [a plurality of the image cells, where each of the image cells corresponds to one of] the stored images, a navigation control button for [positioning a highlight area around] selecting one of the [plurality of image cells] stored images, and one or more function keys, the method comprising the steps of:

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(a) assigning a mark function to one of the function keys, such that in response to [the] a user pressing the assigned mark function key, the image [cell] currently [highlighted] selected is marked to provide a marked image;

(b) repeating step (a) to create a temporary group of marked images; and

(c) assigning at least one group function to one of the function keys, such that in response to [a] the user pressing the assigned group function key, the group of marked images is collectively manipulated by the user.

2. A method as in claim 1 wherein step (c) further includes the step of:

(c1) providing a view function as the at least one group function, such that in response to a user pressing the assigned view function key, each of the marked images is displayed sequentially in the view finder without manual intervention.

3. A method as in claim 1 wherein step (c) further includes the step of:

(c1) providing a save function as the at least one group function, such that in response to a user pressing the assigned save function key, a permanent group of images is created by saving each of the marked images in a folder.

4. A method as in claim 1 wherein step (c) further includes the step of:
(c1) providing a slide show function as the at least one group function, such that in response to a user pressing the assigned slide show function key, a permanent group of images is created by saving each of the marked images in a file.

5. (Amended) A method as in claim 1 wherein step (c) further includes the step of:

(c1) providing a duplicate function as the at least one group function, such that in response to a user pressing the assigned duplicate function key, each of the marked images are duplicated, and if no images have been marked, then the image [cell] currently [highlighted] selected is duplicated.

6. (Amended) A method as in claim 1 wherein step (c) further includes the step of:

(c1) providing a delete function as the at least one group function, such that in response to a user pressing the assigned delete function key, each of the marked images is deleted, and if no images have been marked, then the image [cell] currently [highlighted] selected is deleted.

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7. (Amended) A method as in claim 1 further including the step of:

(d) assigning an unmark function to one of the function keys, such that in response to the user pressing the assigned unmark function key, [the mark number is removed from] the image [cell] currently [highlighted] selected is unmarked.

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8. (Amended) A method for grouping a series of images stored in a digital camera, the digital camera including a navigation control button, one or more function keys, and a view finder for displaying stored images [a plurality of image cells, where each of the image cells corresponds to one of the stored images], the method comprising the steps of:

(a) selecting [positioning a highlight on] one of the stored images [plurality of image cells] in response to a user pressing a navigation control button;

(b) enabling [prompting] the user to mark the [highlighted] selected image [cell] using a corresponding function key;

(c) displaying a mark indication [in the highlighted] on the selected image [cell] in response to the user pressing the corresponding function key;

(d) repeating steps (a) through (c) to provide a temporary group of marked images.

9. A method as in claim 8 wherein step (c) further includes the step of:

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(c1) providing a ~~mark~~ number as the mark indication.

10. (Amended) A method as in claim 8 further including [9 wherein step (c) further includes] the steps of:

(e) [(c1)] enabling [prompting] the user to select one of the functions of saving the group, deleting the group, and creating a slide show from the group using corresponding function keys; and

(f) [(c2)] saving the group, deleting the group, and creating a slide show from the group in response to the user pressing the appropriate function keys.

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11. (Amended) A method as in claim 10 further including the steps [wherein step (c) further includes the step] of:

(g) [(c3)] prompting the user to unmark the [highlighted] selected image [cell] using a corresponding function key; and

(h) [(c4)] removing the mark indication from the selected image [number in the highlighted image cell] in response to the user pressing the corresponding function key.

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12. (Amended) A method as in claim 11 wherein step (a) further includes the step of:

(a1) prompting the user to duplicate the [highlighted] selected image [cell] using a corresponding function key; and

(a2) duplicating the [highlighted] selected image [cell] in response to the user pressing the corresponding function key.

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13. A digital camera device comprising:

a memory device coupled to said digital camera device for storing sets of image data;

a memory manager for allocating storage locations within said memory device to store said sets of image data;

an interface coupled to said memory device whereby an external host computer can access said sets of image data stored in said memory device;

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a user interface for displaying a plurality of images [image cells] corresponding to the image data, the user interface including a plurality of function keys [buttons], and [means527highlight] means to select one of the plurality of images [image cells];

means coupled to the memory manager for assigning a mark function to one of the function keys, such that in response to the user pressing the assigned mark function key, the selected image is marked. [a mark number is displayed in the highlighted image cell] such that in response to the user repeatedly selecting [highlighting] images [cells] and pressing the assigned mark function key, a temporary group of marked images is created; and

means coupled to the memory manager for assigning at least one group function to one of the function keys, such that in response to a user pressing the assigned group function key, the group of marked images is collectively manipulated by the user.